

### REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated November 2, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been amended to correct informalities.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as having been obvious over Johnston et al. and Wang et al.

Obviousness under § 103 requires an objective analysis of the following: "the scope and content of the prior art are to be determined; differences between the prior art and the claims at issue are to be ascertained; and the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art resolved." KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. \_\_\_, slip op. at 2 (2007) (quoting Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City, 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966)). Evidence of secondary considerations must also be considered. Id.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the following: "the grafting of the hydrophilic monomer to the surface is patternwise controlled in order to create circuitous liquid transport paths, corresponding with the patternwise control, on the liquid transport film." This feature is supported in the application as filed by page 4, lines 22-24. The ordinary meanings of the words "circuit" and "circuitous" include, respectively, "the way or path round" and "roundabout, not direct." Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus, p. 68 (2d edition, 2002). This feature allows the transport paths to be controlled by the patternwise grafting of the hydrophilic monomer onto the surface of the film, in addition to being controlled by the mechanical structure of the film. Greater versatility is thus provided in the liquid transport films of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose this feature and thus cannot render the claimed invention obvious. In particular, neither Johnston et al. nor Wang et al. disclose or suggest a patternwise grafting of a hydrophilic monomer onto a substrate. Rather, they teach a more uniform deposition of coatings onto a substrate. Accordingly, Johnston et al. and Wang et al. do not disclose all elements of the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-6 are patentable for at least the reasons provided with respect to their base claim 1.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

1/31/08  
Date

By: Lance L. Vietzke  
Lance L. Vietzke, Reg. No.: 36,708  
Telephone No.: 651-737-2180

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833